

- 5 -

REMARKS

The present response is to the Office Action mailed in the above-referenced case on November 28, 2003. Claims 17-24 and 26-36 are pending in the application. The Examiner has objected to the specification under 35 U.S.C. 132 for introducing new matter into the disclosure, and claims 28-30 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form. Claims 17-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement, and are further rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 23, 26, 27, 29 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Galays et al. (U.S. 6,205,157 B1), and further in view of Liu et al. (U.S. 6,154,468) and Froehling et al. (U.S. 6,560,290 B1). Claims 24 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Galays et al., Liu et al. and Froehling et al., and further in view of Prentice et al. (6,397,042 B1). The Examiner has kindly indicated that claims 31-36 are allowed.

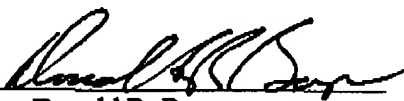
Regarding the Examiner's objection to the specification and claims 28-30, and rejection of claims 17-22 due to informalities, applicant herein cancels claims 28-30, and amends claims 17, 19 and 22 to overcome the objections and rejections. Regarding the Examiner's rejection of claims 23-24 and 26-30 on their merits, applicant cancels those claims.

Applicant accepts the allowability of claims 31-36 as indicated by the Examiner. In view of applicant's above amendments to the claims overcoming the objections and rejections due to informalities, and accepting the allowable subject matter, independent claims 17 and 31 are now patentable claims. Depending claims 18-22 and 31-36 are then now patentable on their own merits, or at least as depended from a patentable claim.

- 6 -

It is therefore respectfully requested that this application be reconsidered and that this case be passed quickly to issue. If there are any time extensions needed beyond any extension specifically requested with this amendment, such extension of time is hereby requested. If there are any fees due beyond any fees paid with this amendment, authorization is given to deduct such fees from deposit account 50-0534.

Respectfully submitted
Angshuman Saha et al.

by 
Donald R. Boys
Reg. No. 35,074

Donald R. Boys
Central Coast Patent Agency
P.O. Box 187
Aromas, CA 95004
(831) 726-1457